

CLAIMS :

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1. A method for updating with new features a STB product having basic functions implemented on a main circuit board in the STB product, said features being included in separated modular locks characterized in that several different kinds of modular blocks able to carry out different groups of features are sold as different packs to end-users and are intended to be plugged to the main circuit board of the STB product by end-users themselves with an unique kind of means of connection for all kinds of modular blocks.

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2. A method according to claim 1, characterized in that means of connection are performed by a female connector on the modular block side and by an emulated and metalized part of the main board on the STB product side.

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3. A method according to one of the claims 1 and 2, characterized in that some specific features among all features carried out by the different kinds of modular blocks have, each, dedicated connection sub-means included in said means of connection, others features sharing the remaining part of said connection means.

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4. A method according to claim 3, characterized in that said specific features are included in the group formed by a smart card reader, a modem, a memory.

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5. A basic STB product having basic functions implemented on a main circuit board in the STB product and means for connecting at least a separated modular block including new features for the STB product, characterized in that said means for connecting are compatible with several different kinds of modular blocks able to carry out different groups of features, said modular blocks being sold as different packs to end-users.

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6. A basic STB product according to claim 5, characterized in that an emulated and metalized part of the main board serve as connection means with said modular blocks.

7. A basic STB product according to one of the claims 5 and 6, characterized in that some specific features among all features carried out by the different kinds of modular blocks have, each, dedicated connection sub-means included in said means of connection, others features sharing the remaining part of said connection means.

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8. A separated modular block able to carry out a group of features intended to update a STB product having basic functions implemented on a main circuit board in the STB product, characterized in that said modular block is sold as a pack to end-users, said modular block being intended to be plugged to the main circuit board of the STB product by an end-user himself with means of connection, said means of connection being compatible with different kinds of modular blocks carrying out different groups of features.

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9. A separated modular block according to claim 8, characterized in that a female connector serve as connection means with said STB product.

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10. A separated modular block according to one of the claims 8 and 9, characterized in that some specific features among all features carried out by the different kinds of modular blocks have, each, dedicated connection sub-means included in said means of connection, others features sharing the remaining part of said connection means.

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11. A separated modular block according to one of the claims 8 to 10, characterized in that said specific features are included in the group formed by a smart card reader, a modem, a memory.

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